

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
AID-05 MCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 OMB-01
TRSE-00 ACDA-12 EB-08 COME-00 /078 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:D M WINN:PM/SAS:D KEENE:LB
APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:J W TWINAM
DOD/ISA:T O WILLIAMS

-----019749 110226Z /63

R 100226Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY SANA
INFO CHUSMTM DHAHRAN
USMTM RIYADH
SECDEF WASHDC 0486

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 147877

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YE, SA

SUBJECT: TRANSFER OF SAUDI AIRCRAFT TO YAR

REFERENCES: (A) SANA 2579, (B) JI-DA 2948, (C) SANA 1896,
(D) SANA 1897, (E) STATE 133171, (F) SANA 2240, (G) SANA
2757

1. DEPARTMENT HAD IMPRESSION FROM PREVIOUS CABLES (REFS B
AND C) THAT SAUDIS PLANNING TO TRANSFER ONLY THREE HELI-
COPTERS AT THIS TIME. REQUEST EMBASSIES SANA AND JIDDA
CLARIFY THIS POINT. IF SAG PLANNING TO TRANSFER 12 IN
REASONABLY NEAR FUTURE, DEPARTMENT WILLING TO SUBSTITUTE
6 AB-212'S AND 6 AB-206'S FOR 3 AB-212'S IN TEXT OF
NON-TRANSFER ASSURANCES (REF E) TO BE OBTAINED FROM YARG.
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2. RE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT TO SUGGEST TO SAUDIS
THAT THEY DROP THEIR OBJECTIONS TO EMBASSY SANA'S ASKING
YEMENIS FOR F-5B NON-TRANSFER ASSURANCES (PARA 4 REF A),
IT APPEARS THAT CONFUSION EXISTS BECAUSE OF CONFLICTING
STATEMENTS BY MODA AND SHUWAIL CONCERNING SAUDI DESIRES
AND INTENTIONS. THUS, MODA IN APRIL STATED THAT SAG

WANTED TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY WITH TRANSFER (PARA 1, REF B). SHUWAIL IN MAY IMPLIED THAT SAUDIS PREFERRED TO AWAIT ESTABLISHMENT OF DEFINITE TRAINING SCHEDULE

BEFORE ADDRESSING QUESTION OF TIME OF ACTUAL DELIVERY (REF F). TIMING OF EMBASSY SANA'S APPROACH TO YAR FOR PROMISED TRANSFER ASSURANCES WOULD THEREFORE APPEAR TO DEPEND, IN THIS CASE, UPON RESOLUTION OF CONFLICTING VERSIONS OF WHEN SAUDIS WISH TO TRANSFER AIRCRAFT.

3. SUGGEST EMBASSY JIDDA AND/OR CHUSMTM CHECK WITH MODA TO DETERMINE WHEN SAUDIS WISH TO INITIATE TRANSFER. (CONCURRENT STATE CABLE ON TRAINING MAY AFFECT THIS DECISION.) SAUDIS SHOULD BE ADVISED TO INFORM SHUWAIL AS TO THEIR DECISION, WHICH SHOULD ELIMINATE HIS OBJECTIONS AS EXPRESSED REF F. EMBASSY SANA SHOULD THEN APPROACH YAR FOR NON-TRANSFER STATEMENT. IN ANY CASE, TRANSFER CANNOT OCCUR UNTIL ASSURANCES FROM YAR ARE RECEIVED.

4. WE HAVE JUST SEEN SANA 2757. COMMENTS PARA 2 ABOVE CONCERNING SAUDI INTENTIONS RE TRANSFER DATE STILL APPLY. IN LIGHT OF REF G, USMTM SHOULD OBTAIN COPY OF YEMENI ASSURANCES WHICH WERE SENT TO RIYADH TO DETERMINE IF CORRECT TEXT HAS BEEN USED.

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